



Cary Votes To Raise Impact Fees

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By Chris Cowperthwaite

Cary Reporter

Chris Cowperthwaite

[E-mail](#) | [Biography](#)



CARY, N.C. - After several months of back-and-forth, Cary leaders have decided to raise impact fees.

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Cary Town Council came to a unanimous decision Monday night at a fairly meeting that was low key compared to earlier discussions.

An impact fee is a fee charged to developers to offset the impact new development has on town services.

The council voted to raise water and sewer impact fees to 75 percent of the maximum amount they could charge developers, while they opted to keep transportation fees at the same level.

Council members tabled any decision on impact fees for irrigation and reclaimed water.

Their vote to raise water and sewer fees but keep transportation fees level showed compromise.

"Our transportation impact fee, which was a big piece of this proposal -- we're already high. And it made no sense to go higher," said Council member Erv Portman.

"I think we were definitely successful in having some discussions, bringing some information to the table that ultimately had them change their decision," said Suzanne Harris, vice president of Governmental Affairs for the Home Builders Association of Raleigh -Wake County.

While the council obviously wanted to slow things down a little, they said it was important that they not price developers out of Cary completely.

"One hundred percent of nothing is nothing," said Council member Jack Smith. "In other words, if we turn the faucet completely off and we stop all development, then the whole intent of things paying for itself -- the burden goes back on the citizens."

Council members toyed with the idea of phasing in the increases, but ultimately kept to their original timetable of implementing them on July 1.

Some supporters of the increased fees said they were satisfied with the compromises, but declined an interview.

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